

HE OBEYED THE PRINCE

SIR EDMUND MONSON SACRIFICES HIS
BEARD FOR DIPLOMACY.

MOURNING FOR ALEXANDER OF BATTENBERG
— A ROYAL BETROTHAL—NEW HEAD OF
TRINITY HOUSE—THE MASTER OF
CEREMONIES — FEELING ABOUT
THE NAVY—GRANDERISING.
(IN CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.)

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London, Nov. 3.—The death of Prince Alexander of Battenberg has cast a deep gloom over the court, for he had been entertained by the Queen and Princess Beatrice. Several guests who had been invited to Windsor were put off, and some court functions which were impending have been postponed. The Castle has been very sombre during the last ten days, and it is probable that some of the Christmas gayeries at Osborne which have been contemplated will be abandoned. Prince Alexander leaves a fortune of about £50,000, and the Bulgarian Government will continue to his widow and children the pension of £2,000 a year which he had—some times received. The Emperor of Austria, too, has offered to settle an adequate income on the Countess Harnau and her two children. It was not generally known that the late Prince Alexander of Batten-

berg and Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria were warm friends, and carried on a brisk correspondence. Ferdinand has given 10,000 francs towards the national monument which is to be erected to the memory of Alexander in Bulgaria.

A ROYAL BETROTHAL.

It is expected that the betrothal of the widowed Crown Princess Stephanie of Austria to Archduke Franz Ferdinand will take place at Christmas. The Princess was born on May 21, 1864, and the Archduke on December 13, 1861.

A NEW MASTER OF TRINITY HOUSE.

It is said to be probable that before long the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha will retire from the mastership of Trinity House, which office he has

held for many years, and with a successful career by the Prince of Wales or, as is more likely, by the Duke of York, who, like his uncle, is an officer of the Royal Navy. The Duke's retirement will be much regretted, as he has been a very efficient master, and has always had the interests of Trinity House at heart.

A VISITOR TO ST. JAMES'S.

Princess Victor of Hohenlohe and her daughters, the Countesses Gleichen, have arrived at St. James's Palace from Sunningdale, and intend to pass the

winter in town. The apartments which Princess Victor occupies at St. James's Palace have been altered and much improved by command of the Queen.

VISITS OF THE ORLEANS FAMILY.

The Duc d'Orleans, who has been on a sporting expedition in Hungary and Bohemia, is going to Brindisi, where he will be joined by his sister, Princesses Helene, and by the Comte and Comtesse Costa de Beauregard, with whom they are going to spend the winter in Egypt and Palestine, after which they will go to the residence of the Comte de Paris in Andalusia before returning to England in May.

A SACRIFICE TO DIPLOMACY.

Up till the last few weeks Sir Edmund Monson was the possessor of the finest and longest beard in the diplomatic service, but he has, I hear, just sacrificed it in deference to the worldly wishes of the Prince of Wales, who, in his standing authority as the head of the royal household, has insisted upon the necessity of personal appearance uniform.

clean-shaven. Not one in a hundred of his old friends can recognize him, and the hall porter at St. James's Club will certainly require some proof of his identity when next he comes to London. The unexpected change sorely puzzled Prince Henry of Battenberg and those who met Sir Edmund last week at Gratz.

THE NEW MASTER OF CEREMONIES.

Colonel Collville, who has been selected by the Queen to succeed the late Sir Christopher Teesdale as Master of Ceremonies, has been for nearly twenty-three years the treasurer and controller;

of the Duke of Edinburgh's household, a place which presumably will now be abolished. It is understood that the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha strongly urged the Queen to appoint Colonel Colville, but the place would have gone elsewhere had it not been that the applicant for whom it was intended did not possess the fluent knowledge of French and German, which is an indispensable qualification. The appointment of Colonel Colville has given much satisfaction to the Diplomatic Corps, as he is very popular and has a thorough knowledge of court etiquette and usages. The post is worth £700 a year. Colonel Colville will attend at Windsor within the next few days in order that the Queen may invest him with the chain and badge of his new office.

FEELING ON THE NAVY QUESTION.

The temper of the House as well as of the country is rising over the navy question. A good many

ditionals, to give credit where credit is due, are just as anxious as the Opposition that the points raised should be thoroughly gone into. The Premier's reply on Friday gave anything but satisfaction. It was delivered in so many pieces and so nearly inaudible, and when not utterly vague was mere verbiage. The announcement ended, so far as it could be heard, with this marvellous specimen of dilatoriness: "I refer to the future, without any exception or distinction between the immediate and remote, as well as the present."

POOR OFFICE IN EXCHANGE FOR A GOOD ONE
Mr. West Ridgeway's acceptance of the Lieutenant-Governorship of the Isle of Man is a surprise to his friends. He made no secret of his intention

to return to Dublin Castle, and his right to do so was beyond question. The post he vacates is a better one than that which he is about to enter upon, and the Isle of Man is comparative banishment. The inference is irresistible that compensation of some sort has been given or promised to induce him to consent to change, and it remains to be seen what it is. The transformation scene is the more remarkable because of the fact that the quarters which prevail in well-infirmed quarters in Dublin that other changes are imminent at the Castle. It is to be hoped, however, that Sir David Harrel will appoint a suitable Under-Secretary, as his provisional appointment is one of the only acts of Mr. Morley's administration which has commanded the approval and praise of the Irish loyalists.

THEY WERE MISTAKEN IN THEIR NEN.

At the meeting of the Radical malignants last night, one of the English members told a sad story

And now he had exerted all his interest to induce Lord Herschell to place the names of two constituents on the Commission of the Peace, and having succeeded with much difficulty he discovered his omniscious non profess Unionist principles. A Scotch member sent in six names to Lord Herschell, and the individuals were appointed to be county magistrates, it being supposed they were all Republicans, but now it turns out that there has been blunder, for three of them are Unionists.

RARE AND BEAUTIFUL BOOKS.

At a recent book sale in London, Garrick's copy of the first edition of Pope's "Iliad," containing his bookplate, was sold for only six shillings. The buyer will no doubt make a profit by this purchase. One specimen of the most complete and handsomely bound specimens of art—or, as some have it, of the most interesting persons—has been shown to me this week at Sothorn's, in Piccadilly. It is the folio edition of it is Halliwell's "Life of Napoleon," the four-volume edition, which in this lib-

ance has been extended to thirteen, all of them very sumptuously bound in purple morocco by Riviere, with the Imperial cipher and monogram in the sides. They are of quarto size, and contain nearly 2,000 illustrations of the text. There are remarkably fine proof portraits, views, battle scenes, &c., after eminent artists; colored caricatures by Cowlandson, Gillray, Cruikshank and others, and original drawings by these artists. It has taken the enthusiastic, if not distressed, compiler several years to accumulate his treasures from various home and foreign sources. The work as a whole is worthy of a place in the cabinet of an Emperor or of an embassy, though it is much more likely to be snapped up by an American millionaire as soon as its existence is known. It is, of course, an absolutely unique treasure for the fortunate possessor.

EDMUND YATES.

ANOTHER STORY ABOUT MISS GOULD DENIED.

The latest story published regarding the private affairs of the members of the Gould family is that Miss Helen Gould is engaged to marry R. L. Thorne, the general manager of the Texas Pacific Railroad Company. George Gould is now on a shooting trip, but Howard Gould told yesterday that there was absolutely no truth in the story.

"It is false, like all the rest of the stories which have appeared from time to time regarding my sister," he said.